

U.S. Department of Labor

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MISSISSIPPI JOB CORPS STUDENTS SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES
Mississippi Tops Southeast Region With 22,117 Hours to Volunteer Projects in 2004

ATLANTA – Mississippi Job Corps centers led all seven states in the Job Corps Atlanta Region in serving their communities during 2004, contributing 22,117 hours of community service.

Whether tutoring and mentoring students at local elementary schools, helping to care for nursing home residents, or even assisting with civic beautification, students at the three Mississippi Job Corps centers (Batesville, Gulfport and Mississippi) put their job skills training to use and made a lasting impact in the communities around them.

“Job Corps has been making a difference in the lives of our students and our neighbors since its founding 40 years ago,” said Job Corps Atlanta Region Director Don Scott. “Giving back to the communities where our centers are located is one of the most important things we do as a program each year.”

Students at the Batesville JCC worked with nearly 20 organizations and donated 3,393 hours of community service in 2004. Volunteer projects included: reading to local elementary students, collecting items for America’s troops overseas, caring for elderly residents at area nursing homes and hosting and catering events for local organizations. Throughout the year, Batesville JCC worked with organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club, North Mississippi Choral and Arts Council, the Mississippi State Highway Department and the University of Mississippi.

Gulfport JCC led all Mississippi Job Corps centers with 11,396 hours of service to the community. During 2004, students and staff mentored local students, visited area nursing homes, assisted with blood drives and managed voter registration drives for the November elections. The Gulfport JCC also worked with organizations like the American Heart Association and the March of Dimes to organize local walk-a-thons.

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Mississippi Job Corps Celebrates Community Service / Page 2

The Mississippi JCC contributed 7,328 hours of community service in 2004. Students provided electrical wiring assistance for Jackson State University, assisted Oxford Healthcare with patient care and gave academic support for the Boys & Girls Club. The Mississippi JCC also worked with the G.V. Sonny Montgomery VA Medical Center and D&G Foods during the past year.

“Job Corps has been making a difference in the lives of the nation’s youth since its inception, and it’s vital that we teach our students the importance of giving back to their communities,” Scott said. “This year we are celebrating our 40th Anniversary, and there’s no better way to commemorate this occasion than by making a difference in the communities that have provided support and encouragement to each of our centers for the last four decades.”

Job Corps students nationwide represent one of the largest volunteer forces in the United States. Collectively, the 19 centers in the Southeast (Job Corps Atlanta Region) donated more than 101,119 hours of community service in 2004.

Projects in the region include:

- ? Blood drives with the American Red Cross
- ? Providing support for The Salvation Army
- ? Beautification projects for Make a Difference Day
- ? Various fund-raising events with local schools and churches
- ? Cleanup projects for Adopt-a-Highway
- ? Walk-a-thons benefiting various organizations (March of Dimes, Leukemia Society)
- ? Visiting the elderly in nursing homes

Job Corps is celebrating its 40th Anniversary from September 2004 to September 2005. Job Corps is the nation’s largest and oldest federally funded job training and education program for disadvantaged youths ages 16 through 24. At 122 centers nationwide, the program trains 65,000 youth each year in more than 100 different trade areas. For more information about Job Corps, call (800) 733-JOBS or visit <http://jobcorps.doleta.gov>.

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